

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMSCLAIM AMENDMENTS UNDER THE PROVISION OF 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1)(i)

1. (Original) A method for detecting a deantigenized T cell epitope, said method comprising:
 - (a) providing an amino acid sequence of a T cell epitope, said T cell epitope having a binding affinity to a soluble MHC molecule;
 - (b) providing one or more altered T cell epitopes, wherein the amino acid sequence of said altered T cell epitope is different from the amino acid sequence of said T cell epitope;
 - (c) contacting said altered T cell epitope with said soluble MHC molecule for sufficient time to permit MHC-epitope binding complexes to form; and
 - (d) detecting one or more altered T cell epitopes, wherein said detected altered T cell epitope identifies a deantigenized T cell epitope having a binding affinity to said soluble MHC molecule less than the binding affinity of said T cell epitope to said soluble MHC molecule.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - (e) providing one or more altered T cell epitopes, wherein the amino acid sequence of said one or more altered T cell epitopes is different from the amino acid sequence of a deantigenized T cell epitope obtained in step (d); and
 - (f) repeating steps (c) and (d).
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said deantigenized T cell epitope possesses a dissociation constant with said soluble MHC molecule greater than or equal to about 5×10^{-7} M.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said deantigenized T cell epitope possesses a dissociation constant with said soluble MHC molecule greater than or equal to about 5×10^{-5} M.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said deantigenized T cell epitope possesses a dissociation constant with said soluble MHC molecule greater than or equal to about 5×10^{-3} M.
6. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a modified polypeptide, wherein said modified polypeptide exhibits reduced immunogenicity compared to that of an immunogenic polypeptide,

wherein the amino acid sequence of said immunogenic polypeptide comprises at least one T cell epitope amino acid sequence, said method comprising:

- (a) detecting a deantigenized T cell epitope according to any one of the methods of claim 1 or 2;
and
- (b) generating a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence modified from said immunogenic polypeptide, such that said deantigenized T cell epitope amino acid sequence detected from step (a) is substituted for said T cell epitope amino acid sequence of said immunogenic polypeptide.

- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said modified polypeptide exhibits a biological function similar to that exhibited by said immunogenic polypeptide.
- 8. (Withdrawn) A deantigenized T cell epitope detected by any one of the methods of claim 1.
- 9. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide encoding a deantigenized T cell epitope according to claim 8.
- 10. (Withdrawn) An expression vector containing a polynucleotide according to claim 9.
- 11. (Withdrawn) A host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 10.
- 12. (Withdrawn) A modified polypeptide, wherein said modified polypeptide exhibits reduced immunogenicity compared to that of an immunogenic polypeptide, said modified polypeptide generated by any one of the methods of claim 1.
- 13. (Withdrawn) The modified polypeptide according to claim 12, wherein said modified polypeptide is selected from the group of modified polypeptides that: exhibit enzymatic activity; act as an adjuvant; function as a carrier for other molecules; and are capable of binding to a molecule within or administered to an animal to alter the bioactivity, biodistribution and/or bioavailability of the bound molecule.
- 14. (Withdrawn) The modified polypeptide according to claim 12, wherein said modified polypeptide is a modified immunoglobulin.

15. (Withdrawn) The modified polypeptide according to claim 12, wherein said modified polypeptide is a modified monoclonal antibody.
16. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a modified polypeptide according to any one of the modified polypeptides of claim 12 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
17. (Withdrawn) Use of a modified polypeptide according to any one of the modified polypeptides of claim 12 to prevent, to treat, or to diagnose a disease or disorder in a vertebrate.
18. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide encoding a modified polypeptide according to any of claim 12.
19. (Withdrawn) An expression vector containing a polynucleotide according to claim 18.
20. (Withdrawn) A host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 19.